



Summary of Community Visioning Meeting on March 16, 2005

Opening:

The first kick off meeting of the Planning Meeting was called to order at 7:18 pm on March 16, 2005 in City of Miami Gardens City Hall by Planning Department.

I. Introduction of Meeting

Chris Steers, Assistant to the City Manager, introduced himself and the responsibilities of the City providing numerous opportunities. He also introduced Jay Marder, Director of Development Services.

Jay Marder welcomed the audience for coming out. He stated that the communities of Miami Gardens had made this City happen. He introduced what the Planning Department had accomplished and asked the people of the community for feedback. He then stated that the “visioning” is a learning process and hoped that the residents would come up with more information.

Mr. Marder then introduced Bhairvi Pandya, Senior Planner.

II. Overview Presenter

Bhairvi Pandya welcomed everyone to the City’s first CDMP visioning meeting. Her presentation included explanations of terms such as GIS, CDMP, making a vision a reality, architectural design with respect to development and redevelopment.

III. Speaker – Place Making

Jay Marder introduced the Guest Speaker Prof. Chuck Bohl, Director of Knight Program in Community Building, University of Miami College of Architecture.

Prof. Bohl spoke about various cities, both ancient and current, the building processes and urban design. His presentation included different ways to look at a community, how the process of community building never ends, and geographical location and growing region needs. He gave examples from various cities and various time periods. He encouraged the people, “Don’t be afraid to think long term and to consider lighting, landscaping, public works, affordable housing, retail, mixed use and market places when improving their city.” His final quote summarized the entire presentation: “Success is where preparation and opportunity meets.”

IV. Wrap-up and Announcements

Mr. Marder thanked Prof. Bohl and opened the Questions and Answers portion. Mr. Marder also announced that the next meeting will be held on May 18, 2005 and encouraged all to attend.

V. Questions and Answers

A resident addressed the Metrorail issue and asked, “Why will it take so long?” Staff answered that pursuant to Florida Statutes, the City is required to have a 5 and a 10 year planning periods in the comprehensive plan that address short and long term issues.

A resident curious about the city and interested in “where are the streets taking the people to” wanted to know how much of Miami-Dade County’s CDMP is going to affect the city. Staff replied that the city is currently operating under the county’s plan and that the new City Comprehensive Development Master Plan will be very different than the county’s plan. This is a long term project and the City is working on detaching itself from the County.

A resident stated that “this is a little City with no money and little employees”. This resident wanted to know how the City will get rid of red tape. Staff responded by stating that the City doesn’t have red tape because it has few employees. The City is working hard and getting grant dollars to fund various projects.

A statement was made by a resident who wanted to encourage everyone to get involved in making sure that the North – South phase of the Metrorail be constructed first and not the East- West.

A statement was made by a resident who wanted future development at NW 27th Avenue and NW 199th Street to be a melting pot for the city, a sort of attraction area.

A resident who was uncertain of terms asked, “how do you pronounce MIMO? What is New Urbanism?” He also stated that he felt that there is a need for more affordable housing. Staff responded that MIMO is an architectural style, Miami Modern. New Urbanism is a term used to describe a new type of mixed use development with public spaces and walkable civic communities. New Urbanism harkens back to pre-automobile towns with apartments above storefronts, etc. Affordable housing is an issue throughout this region and not just Miami Gardens.

VI. Adjournment

Jay Marder adjourned the meeting at **9:15 pm**.